



Dr. Jack J. Lissauer
Space Scientist

NASA Ames Research Center

I come up with new models for how planetary systems form and what makes them stable. I study Saturn's rings by observing and developing theories, and I supervise the research of graduate students.

Areas of expertise:

- Planetary science
- Celestial mechanics

How I first became interested in this profession:

I've always liked math and science, but I first became interested in space in the first grade when we studied the solar system.

What helped prepare me for this job:

Lots of research experience and education have helped prepare me for my job.

My role models or inspirations:

My role models have been my teachers, and advisors at college and at work.

My education and training:

- B.S. in mathematics, MIT
- Ph.D. in applied mathematics, Berkeley
- Four years post-doctoral training in planetary astrophysics

My career path:

- Professor at SUNY Stony Brook for nine years
- Space scientist at NASA Ames for five years

What I like about my job:

The freedom to do fun things like figure out what I want to know about the universe, while getting paid for it!

What I don't like about my job:

I have to fill out lots of paperwork in order to get money for my travel. This takes time away from my research.

My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

If you have a passion for it, go for it, and study lots of math and physics. However, it's not easy.